

## District of Columbia Extended Benefits (EB) FAQs

The District of Columbia's Extended Benefits (EB) Program will officially expire on Saturday, June 9, 2012, and **the last payable week for EB is the week ending Saturday, June 9, 2012.**

The Department of Employment Services (DOES) will continue to administer the regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits and Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) programs to those who are unemployed and meet the necessary eligibility requirements.

### 1. What is the Extended Benefits (EB) Program?

The Extended Benefits (EB) Program is designed to provide additional weeks of unemployment compensation benefits during High Unemployment Periods (HUP). Under the program, individuals who exhaust their regular unemployment benefits and all benefits through the federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) Program may qualify for up to 20 additional weeks of benefits.

The EB Program has been in effect since **March 2009** as the District of Columbia's unemployment rate was high enough to reach levels specified in state and federal law.

### 2. Why is the program ending? Will I still be able to receive these benefits?

The United States Department of Labor (DOL) has notified the District of Columbia and the Department of Employment Services (DOES) that due to declining unemployment rates, the District of Columbia will no longer qualify for the federally-funded Extended Benefits (EB) Program and is therefore no longer eligible to pay federal EB to D.C. unemployment insurance claimants for weeks commencing after Saturday, June 9, 2012.

Claimants who are currently filing for EB will receive a notice notifying them of the end of the EB program. **The last claim week ending date that EB payments may be made is the week ending June 9, 2012.**

Claimants currently filing for EB may continue to file their continued claims through June 9, 2012 if they remain unemployed. These claims will be paid for the weeks up to the week ending June 9, 2012. Under federal law, the District of Columbia cannot pay any EB for any weeks claimed after the week ending June 9, 2012.

Claimants who are currently exhausting payments under the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program may file an initial claim for EB as long as that claim is effective before June 9, 2012. However, no additional payments can be made after the week ending June 9, 2012.



### **3. But I have an EB balance. Am I still entitled to that money after June 9<sup>th</sup>?**

**No.** The Extended Benefits (EB) Program is federally funded, and the federal government will cease funding the EB Program after June 9, 2012.

When the U.S. Department of Labor informed the District of Columbia that it no longer qualifies for the EB Program and therefore is no longer eligible to pay D.C. unemployment insurance claimants federal EB, those funds will no longer be available or payable when the program ends on June 9, 2012, even if your monetary determination, weekly certification notice, and/or claimant profile indicate that you have an available EB balance.

### **4. Didn't Congress extend the EB and EUC programs?**

Congress extended both the EB and Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) programs through the end of 2012. However, the federal extension legislation specifies that the EB Program, which is funded by the federal government, remains in effect **only** if the District of Columbia remains in a High Unemployment Period (HUP).

**The District of Columbia has been notified that it is no longer in a HUP** after the most recent unemployment figures issued by the Department of Labor on May 18, 2012 show that D.C.'s unemployment rate has dropped to its lowest point in three years.

Due to the steady decline in the District's unemployment rate, the District of Columbia will no longer qualify for the federal EB program after Saturday, June 9, 2012.

The EUC program is still available in the District of Columbia. Read more about EUC benefits [here](#).

### **5. When is the last day to apply for Extended Benefits (EB)?**

The EB program in the District of Columbia will expire the week ending June 9, 2012. This is the last payable week for EB benefit payments and the last day to apply, no matter which week of EB a claimant is on at the time.

### **6. I am still receiving Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) benefits. Will I be eligible for the District of Columbia's extended benefits (EB)? Will I automatically receive these benefits or do I have to apply?**

The Extended Benefits (EB) Program will expire on **Saturday, June 9, 2012**. No payments for claims filed after that week will be paid. You will automatically be notified before June 9<sup>th</sup> if you are eligible to receive any weeks of EB, and EB applications will still be processed if dated on or before Saturday, June 9, 2012.



**7. My EUC benefits are about to expire. What should I do?**

If your EUC benefits are set to expire prior to June 9, 2012, continue filing your weekly claims and the EB application as soon as you receive notice. This will reduce the amount of time it will take to pay your benefits once your eligibility for extended benefits (EB) has been determined. **No EB payments will be made for weeks after Saturday, June 9, 2012.**

To help us better serve you, please make sure to register or update your account and/or resume in our Virtual One-Stop (VOS) DCNetworks system at [www.dcnetworks.org](http://www.dcnetworks.org).

In addition, District residents should register in our One • City One Hire database at [www.OneCityOneHire.org](http://www.OneCityOneHire.org) to get program updates and learn about upcoming job recruitment events throughout the District.

**8. Can I certify my weekly claims for extended benefits (EB) online or over the phone?**

**Yes**, your weekly claim for benefits can be filed over the phone or online [here](#). However, you are required to demonstrate an independent work-search effort, and you will need to submit a paper weekly claim supplement (work search log) to show your work-search activities. Be sure the work search log is completed fully before returning it to DOES. Failure to fully complete the work search log will result in a denial of benefits for the benefit weeks in question. A printable form is available [here](#).

**9. How much will I receive under the Extended Benefits (EB) Program? How many more weeks of benefits will I receive?**

Individual weekly benefit amounts will vary, but the maximum weekly benefit amount in the District of Columbia is \$359.

**Please remember, NO EB payments will be made for any weeks claimed after week ending Saturday, June 9, 2012, as the federal EB program will no longer be funded by the federal government after June 9, 2012.**

**10. I am an employer who pays unemployment taxes. Will I be charged more because of the state extended benefits (EB)?**

As a provision of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, benefits paid through December 31, 2012 in the State Extended Benefits (EB) Program, are funded 100 percent through federal funds. This means the program will not impact the UI Trust Fund or employers' UI tax rates. The exceptions are state and local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes, federal agencies and the military, which are required to reimburse the UI Trust Fund for 100 percent of their pro-rata share of Extended Benefits (EB) paid.



## **11. I have exhausted all of my benefits. What do I do next?**

If you have exhausted all benefits that are available to you, we recommend checking into other forms of assistance through state, federal, and local programs. Additionally, continue to work with the Department of Employment Services and the DC Works! One-Stop Career Centers to aid in your job search.

Services, resources, and other relevant information to assist you in your work search efforts can be found at the following websites:

- America's Job Bank (AJB) – [www.ajb.dni.us](http://www.ajb.dni.us)
- CareerOneStop – [www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)
- DCNetworks – [www.DCNetworks.org](http://www.DCNetworks.org)
- DOES – [www.does.dc.gov](http://www.does.dc.gov)
- USA JOBS – [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov)

If you do not have Internet access, please call the National Toll-Free Help Line at 1-877-US-2JOBS (1-877-872-5627) – TTY 1-877-889-5627 to receive state and local contact information. You may also visit one of our DC Works! One-Stop Career Centers to access the Internet to find information and services to assist you in your job search efforts.

All UI, EUC, and EB claimants are encouraged to utilize job seeker services through our [DCNetworks system](#), the [One City One Hire web portal](#), or one of our [DC Works! One-Stop Career Centers](#).